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SUBJECT: APRIL 15 MFA PRESS BRIEFING: TORCH RELAY, DALAI  
LAMA, CARREFOUR BOYCOTT, ETC.

1. Key points at the regular April 15 MFA press briefing:

-- Past successful legs of the Olympic Torch Relay have come about through cooperation with the relevant countries; any disruptions in future legs of the torch run will show the "true nature" of Tibetan separatist forces. China hopes that other countries can understand that the "torch escorts" are merely seeking to safeguard the "safety, purity and dignity" of the Olympic Games.

-- The barriers for dialogue with the Dalai Lama are on his side, rather than on the Chinese Government's side.

-- The violent acts in Lhasa were masterminded by the "Dalai Clique." China hopes that other nations can recognize the true nature of the Dalai Lama and not support him by holding meetings or discussions with him.

-- Calls for a boycott of French brands and companies following the disrupted Paris Torch Relay "have reason" behind them. China hopes that France can make efforts to repair the relationship.

-- China hopes to have dialogue on a variety of topics to help solve problems through dialogue during the EU3-plus-3 (P5-plus-1) meeting in Shanghai. Media access has been arranged for the relevant countries.

-- China condemns CNN commentator Jack Cafferty's comments that the Chinese people are "goons and thugs."

-- China will safeguard journalists' freedom to report within the bounds of Chinese law. Journalists should respect Chinese law and increase mutual trust by reporting in a fair and balanced manner.

-- China maintains a "prudent attitude" towards the death penalty, which is only applied in a small number of cases to people who have committed serious crimes.

-- VISITORS: EU Commission President Jose Manuel Barroso will visit China April 24-26. South African Foreign Minister Dr. Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma will visit China April 19-26.

Torch Run: Success Comes From Cooperation  
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2. At the regularly-scheduled MFA press briefing April 15, MFA Spokesperson Jiang Yu said that the Olympic Torch Relay has been smooth, and is a reflection of the hopes and aspirations of the people who support the Olympics. Regarding the upcoming India portion of the relay, Jiang said that prior successes have been achieved through cooperation with the relevant parties, and cooperation in India will likewise result in success. Should there be any disruption,

she added, it will show "the true nature of the separatists."

Asked about Japan and other nations denying entry to the "torch escorts," Jiang said that the practice of escorting the torch is in keeping with past Olympic Games. The torch escorts are all volunteers, are not law enforcement officials, and are merely seeking to safeguard the "safety, purity and dignity" of the Olympic Games. China hopes that all countries can understand this and cooperate. Asked a follow-up question regarding India's preparation for the torch relay, Jiang said that there has been close cooperation, and China hopes that India takes effective measures.

#### Dalai Lama Dialogue: Barrier Is On His Side

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13. China has exerted "maximum patience" in dealing with the Dalai Lama, Jiang said, and the barrier to dialogue is on his side rather than on the Chinese Government's side. Jiang expressed hope that the Dalai Lama can "give up his sabotage and take concrete actions." Jiang was unwilling to confirm details of a March 19 letter sent by the Dalai Lama to Hu Jintao asking for the resumption of dialogue, saying only that she hadn't heard of it.

#### Dalai Lama Meetings

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14. Asked about potential meetings between the Dalai Lama and representatives from other nations, including U.S. Under Secretary Paula Dobriansky, Jiang said that the violent acts

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in Lhasa were clearly masterminded by the "Dalai Clique," and as such she expressed hope that other nations can "make a distinction between right and wrong" and recognize the true

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nature of the Dalai Lama. Noting that the Dalai Lama is a splittist seeking to undermine national unity, Jiang expressed hope that the United States and other nations would not support him.

#### Carrefour Boycott: Negative sentiments "have reason"

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15. Asked about calls for a boycott of Carrefour department stores and other French brands and companies following the disruption of the Olympic Torch Relay in Paris, Jiang said that the Chinese people have been expressing their views and sentiments within the bounds of the law, and that all of these sentiments "have reason" behind them. Noting that friendship between two countries requires that both sides make joint efforts, she said that other countries cannot do things that are unacceptable to Chinese people and expressed hope that the French would "cherish" their relations with China and make good efforts to repair the relationship.

16. The purpose of the EU 3-plus-3 (P5-plus-1) Political Directors meeting on Iran in Shanghai is to implement the joint statement agreed upon in March. China hopes to have in depth discussion on a variety of topics to find a way to solve the current problems through dialogue. Asked a follow up question regarding media access to the meeting, Jiang said that arrangements have been made with the media representatives from the relevant countries, and that further questions should be directed to the U.S. press representatives.

#### Government Hand in Pro-China Demonstrations?

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17. Asked whether overseas demonstrations showing support of China were orchestrated by Chinese embassies abroad, Jiang said that demonstrations to oppose separatism and anti-China activities "express their just voice." She then asked, "Do

you think these need to be organized by the Chinese Government?"

CNN Comments were "Shocking"

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¶18. China was shocked by comments from CNN commentator Jack Cafferty that the Chinese are "goons and thugs," and condemns these "vicious remarks." Cafferty "used his microphone to insult the Chinese people," which violate both journalist and human ethics and hurt the feelings of the Chinese people. She solemnly requested that he take back his remarks and apologize.

Protecting the Freedom of Reporters

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¶19. Asked if journalists would be granted free access to Tibet after May 1, Jiang noted that in the past access to Tibet only required "a few formalities," and that the current restrictions stem from the violent criminal acts in the area. Journalists should keep close contact with the relevant authorities within the Tibetan Autonomous Region regarding travel to Tibet. Asked a more general question regarding non-interference with journalists, Jiang responded that China will protect the interests of journalists within keeping with the law. She expressed hope, however, that journalists will abide by Chinese law, and will increase mutual trust by reporting in a fair and balanced manner.

Walkout in Ireland

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¶10. Asked whether it was appropriate for the Chinese Ambassador to Ireland to walk out of the Green Party Conference when Irish Environment Minister and party leader John Gormley raised the subject of Tibet, Jiang said that Sino-Irish relations are enjoying good momentum, with multiple recent exchanges of high level visitors. Tibet is an internal matter, and is recognized by the international community as an inalienable part of China.

Death Penalty: Prudent Attitude

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¶11. Asked a question about a recent report that states that China's execution rate is the highest in the world, Jiang said that there are currently more countries with the death penalty than without. Current conditions do not allow China to abolish the death penalty, but China maintains a "prudent attitude" on the subject and as such the death penalty is

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only applied to a small number of people who have committed serious crimes.

¶12. A survey by the Financial Times stating that a majority of Europeans see China as the largest threat to world stability "does not reflect the voice of China," Jiang said. China maintains a philosophy of peaceful development, and China's own peaceful development has aided the development of other countries. As such, the international community should judge China fairly.

¶13. Deputy Foreign Minister Wang Yi and his Japanese counterpart met April 14-15 to exchange views on Sino-Japanese relations and issues of mutual interest. In particular, the two discussed preparations for Chinese President Hu Jintao's upcoming visit to Japan, as well as issues related to the East China Sea. Both sides will make continued efforts, Jiang said.

¶14. Asked a question regarding a plan to change an Iran-India-Pakistan pipeline into an Iran-Pakistan-China pipeline, Jiang said she had not heard the reports. Regarding comments from Pakistani President Pervez Musharraf

that China and the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) can join hands with NATO to solve the problems in Afghanistan, Jiang again said she had not heard of it. She added that the actions of the SCO are performed within the framework of the three founding pillars of the SCO, one of which is regional stability and counterterrorism cooperation. As such, China is ready to cooperate with Pakistan to fight terrorism.

¶15. VISITORS: EU Commission President Jose Manuel Barroso will visit China April 24-26. South African Foreign Minister Dr. Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma will visit China April 19-26.  
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